

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 USIA-06 SCS-03 /065 R

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APPROVED BY AF: WILLIAM B. EDMONDSON
AF/S: DKEOGH

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P R 150152Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: BANNING OF FATHER SMANGALISO MKHATSHWA

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ASKED TO REPLY TO LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE FROM U.S. CATHOLIC CONFERENCE (USCC) CONCERNING SAG'S BANNING OF FATHER SMANGALISO MKHATSHWA , ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE (SACBC). ACCORDING TO USCC MKHATSHWA'S BANNING ORDER IS FOR FIVE YEARS AND REQUIRES HIM TO RESIDE SOME 30 MILES FROM HIS OFFICE IN PRETORIA HE IS UNDER 12-HOUR DAILY CURFEW AND MUST REPORT TO THE POLICE WEEKLY. LAST YEAR MKHATSHWA REPORTEDLY SPENT FIVE MONTHS IN PRISON WITHOUT BEING CHARGED FORMALLY.

2. USCC STATES THAT RESTRICTIONS ON MKHATSHWA ARE A
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SEVERE IMPEDIMENT TO THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES AS THE CHIEF STAFF PERSON OF THE SACBC. FURTHERMORE, HE IS ALSO SECRETARY TO A REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS COVERING EIGHT COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. USCC SEES MKHATSHWA CASE AS PART OF AN EMERGING PATTERN OF HARASSMENT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AS A SYMBOL OF BROADER CHURCH-STATE STRUGGLE OVER

RACIAL JUSTICE. USCC REQUESTS USG INTERVENTION WITH SAG ON BEHALF OF MKHATSHWA FOR PURPOSE OF HAVING HIS BANNING ORDER LIFTED TO ENABLE HIM TO EXERCISE HIS MINISTRY WITHOUT HINDRANCE.

3. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO BE RESPONSIVE TO USCC REQUEST, BUT WE ARE AWARE OF NEED TO MOVE CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY WHERE NO U.S. CITIZENS ARE INVOLVED. WE REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS WITH REGARD TO THE BEST MEANS TO BE HELPFUL TO FATHER MKHATSHWA, AND OTHERS LIKE HIM, ON A SELECTIVE BASIS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, (NKHASHWA, SMANGALISO)
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